



WHEATON URBAN DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 30, 2010

Council President Nancy Floreen
and Councilmembers
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Floreen and Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC), I am writing to support the addition of Costco at Westfield's Wheaton Mall. We are excited at the prospect of what the addition of Costco would have on both the Mall and downtown Wheaton. Costco offers a unique opportunity to enhance our ongoing revitalization.

Recently, Wheaton has lost three major businesses. Costco will certainly put us back on the map by creating hundreds of construction jobs and 250-300 new permanent employment opportunities, will bring a new customer base to the Wheaton area, and will most certainly draw other retail businesses. Our small businesses welcome the prospect of having Costco as a neighbor and partner.

At a special meeting held on March 16th we provided an opportunity for the Kensington Heights Civic Association and Kenmont Swim and Tennis Club to share their concerns about the Costco proposal with us. While those communities are in favor of the addition of a Costco to Westfield Wheaton Mall, they are concerned about the possible environmental impacts the proposed gas station would have on their homes and community swim facility.

WUDAC strongly supports the proposed addition of Costco to the Westfield Wheaton Mall. However, we recommend that Costco and Westfield carefully look at all their options for placing the Costco gas station in a secure and well-screened location that meets all EPA, as well as Montgomery County, standards for such a facility.



Mid-County Regional Services Center

2424 Reedie Drive • Wheaton, Maryland 20902-4669
240/777-8100, TTY 240/777-8112, FAX 240/777-8111
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/midcounty • midcty@montgomerycountymd.gov
At Wheaton Metro Station

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We also support the \$4 million in assistance to Westfield Wheaton Mall from the County's Economic Development Fund. We feel this is a rather small investment by the County for what will be an ongoing return in investment, far exceeding the initial \$4 million. The addition of Costco greatly will spur revitalization efforts in Wheaton and add to its tax base.

As you deliberate on this matter, we hope you will consider Costco's enormous benefit to Wheaton, and support the \$4 million subsidy to Westfield Wheaton Mall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brett Schneider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brett" being more prominent than the last name "Schneider".

Brett Schneider
Chair

cc: County Executive Isiah Leggett
Steve Silverman